

John 6:53-54

What Did Our Lord Jesus Mean When He Said:
We Must Eat His Flesh and Drink His Blood?!?

1: Context (Always Key But Extra Important Here!)

Big Miracles Performed by Jesus 6:1-24

- 1. The Feeding of the Five Thousand: A Sign to the Masses v1-15
- 2. Walking on the Water: A Sign to His Men v16-24

These miracles Jesus' authority to teach what He was about to teach about Himself (that He is the Exclusive Issuer and the Exclusive Issue of Salvation) in v32-59

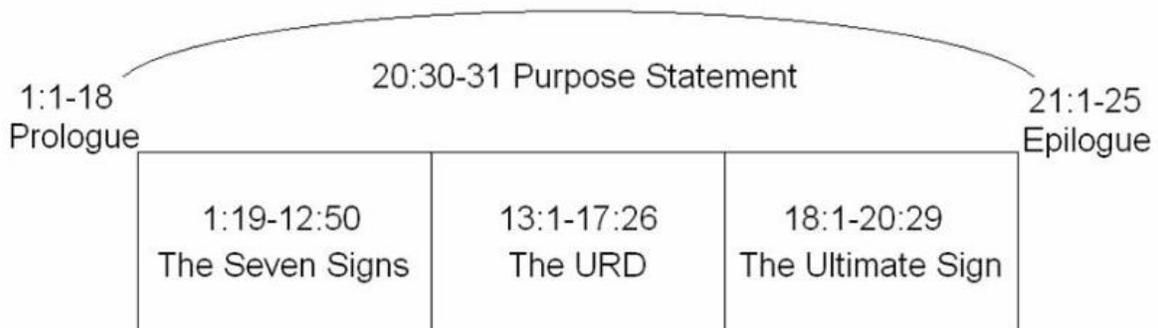
Bread of Life Discourse about Jesus 6:25-59

- 1. The Setting v25-31
- 2. The Teaching v32-59
 - a. Moses/Manna and Messiah v32-51
 - b. The Messiah is THE ISSUE/ISSUER of Everlasting Life v52-59

The Truth That Jesus is THE ISSUE/ISSUER of E-Life Leads to Division v60-71

- 1: Desertion: Many (a good many not just one or two) of Jesus' "disciples" Left Him...
...Because They Would Not Accept Him as THE ISSUE/ISSUER of Everlasting Life
- 2: Dedication: Peter (speaking for 11/12 of THE Disciples) Stands Firm...
...and Clear Affirms His Faith that Jesus as THE Holy One of God-Messiah/Savior

The Gospel of John



2: Content (Extra Controversial Here and Intentionally So!)

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves, He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him up on the last day. As an important part of this larger teaching section (6:32-6:59), John 5:53-54 is an impossible to ignore/graphic, unforgettable statement-describing the need for people to personally appropriate Him (through faith) for E-Life. .

Compare John 6:40 to John 6:53-54

For this is the will of My Father, that *everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have everlasting life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.*

He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Let Clear/Concrete Statements Help Interpret // Complex/Figurative Statements
Believing (ART) in Christ is the TERMS for receiving E-Life (6:40)-the same thing is said in a different/unforgettable way) as “Eating” His Flesh and “Drinking” His Blood (in 6:54)

The Terms for Receiving EL = faith in Christ (pisteuo = Active Receptive Trust) in This Context and the Entire Bible

Jesus said to them, I am the Bread of Life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and **he who believes in Me** will never thirst. But I said to you that **you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.** 6:35-36

Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes has everlasting life.** I am the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died. This is the Bread which comes down out of heaven so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the Living Bread that came down out of heaven, if anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever and the Bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh. 6:47-51

But there are **some of you who do not believe.** For **Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe,** and who it was that would betray Him. 6:64

As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to The Twelve, you do not want to go away also, do you? Simon Peter answered, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of everlasting life. **We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.** 6:66-69

In John 6:53-54: We See a Commonly Misunderstood Statement by Jesus

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves, He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has Everlasting Life, and I will raise him up on the last day. As an important part of this larger teaching section these two verses state a graphic, impossible to ignore/unforgettable truth claim describing the need for people to personally appropriate Him (through faith) for salvation/EL.

NKJV MacArthur Study Bible

6:53–58 eat...drink. Jesus' point was an analogy that has spiritual, rather than literal, significance: just as eating and drinking are necessary for physical life, so also is belief in His sacrificial death on the cross necessary for eternal life. The eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood metaphorically symbolize the need for accepting Jesus' cross work. For the Jews however, a crucified Messiah was unthinkable (cf. Acts 17:1–3).

John 6:53-54: A Great Example of a KEY Characteristic of Jesus' Teaching

Our Lord Often Says Things in Ways That Can Be "Simply Misunderstood" at First, Because He Expects Us to Think Deeply and Profoundly (Beyond a 5th Grade Level) about What He is Saying, So That We Can Deeply and Profoundly Impacted by Him/His Truth.

Have You Believed IN JESUS? Trusting in Jesus Alone for Everlasting Life/Forgiveness of All Sins Is Audacious...and So It Should Not Be a Surprise That Jesus Describes It in an Audacious Way in John 5:53-54.

Trusting in Jesus Along for Everlasting Life/Forgiveness of All Sins ("Eating His Flesh/Drinking His Blood) is Not Just an Audacious Thing for One to Do It Is and Always Hase Been Extremely Offensive to Many People (Especially Religious People Committed to Salvation by Merit/Good Works).

If You Are a Believer IN JESUS You Must Be Clear about Who/What He Is...So You Can Share with Others as THE Exclusive Issue/Issuer of Everlasting Life in a Culture That Believes Lots of Things about Him EXCEPT for That...If You Were Arrested for Being a Christian There Would Be (More Than) Enough Evidence to Easily Convict You?